

From: Jimmy Brokaw <Hedgehog@photobooks.atdc.gatech.edu>
To: A16.A16(rm8775)
Date: 4/3/96 11:38am
Subject: Internet Phoning

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As someone who used Internet long-distance phoning often in the past, I feel I must comment on the proposal to stop Internet phoning. The CDA is currently suspended and in the courts, where a large number of plaintiffs are arguing its Constitutionality. The Pro-CDA side uses the argument that the Internet is being used to transmit illegal material.

You have no such case. If I want to talk to my friend in California, or England, the government cannot tell me I must use Sprint. It cannot ban me from using the Internet, either. As long as the content of the phone call is legal, and the means by which the phone call is made is legal, you cannot illegalize it. How will such a law be written? "You may send large files via the Internet, but if such files contain voice material, you must instead use AT&T?" There is no legal grounds for such a move as long as the transmission of data via the Internet is legal. You may rest assured that any such move will be fought by Internet Phone companies, as well as civil liberty groups.

Furthermore, you have no capacity to "Police" the Internet. You lack jurisdiction over at least 50% of the Internet (foreign countries). You also lack the ability to enforce this law in any way, shape, or form. Software may be anonymously obtained from anywhere in the world, and no entity has the sheer computing power required to scan data, especially voice data. In addition, phone conversations are not publically readable, which means government monitoring of such would be illegal.

Frankly, its a stupid idea, destined to fail. If phone companies would instead concentrate on providing better Internet lines better suited to high-volume voice transmission, they would have nothing to lose.

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\\\\\\\\ ----> hedgehog@photobooks.com <----
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From: Clifford W. Shaw <lcompton@TIAC.NET>
To: A16.A16(rm8775)
Date: 4/3/96 9:34am
Subject: ACTA Petition

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APR 3 1996

The America's Carriers Telecommunications Association's have filed a petition asking for a ruling and "relief" relating to the use of the Internet for voice communications.

In its petition, ACTA alleges that providers of Internet telephone software and hardware "are operating as uncertified and unregulated common carriers in contravention of FCC rules."

In my opinion, restricting voice telephony over the Internet would be a mistake, tantamount to restricting automobiles in favor of horse and buggy.

How I can participate in your decision making process? How can I get more information, preferably over the Internet, in this important matter?

Sincerely,

Clifford W. Shaw

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From: Kirk T. Melhuish <lancer@mindspring.com>
To: A16.A16(rm8775)
Date: 4/2/96 11:48pm
Subject: internet phone

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Keep the federal government the heck out of the marketplace, allow internet phone services and let phone companies that want to do internet do it and stop being greedy crybabies! With all the telecom competition and MERGERS AND MEGA MERGERS there are plenty of choices and oportunities for little bells and big bells local and long distance companies. What are they affraid of...someone else might make a little money, or the little person might save a little! Too bad, move to China or Russia if its better for your company there!
Kirk T. Melhuish

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From: Fred Dech <fred@virtual.me.uic.edu>
To: A16.A16(rm8775)
Date: 4/1/96 5:33pm
Subject: ACTA objection.

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Fred Dech fred@virtual.me.uic.edu
(312) 413-3619 Fax: (312) 413-0447

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From: <lstone@gnatnet.net>
To: A16.A16(rm8775)
Date: 4/2/96 6:36am
Subject: Limitations on internet phoning

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APR 3 1996

Gentlemen, thank you for soliciting comment on possible regulation of internet "telephone" service.

I think that it would be bad for users if internet phone service were disallowed in deference to a consortium of telephone companies. After all, many internet users _access_ the internet over long-distance tele- phone lines. Also, the quality of internet telephony leaves a lot to be desired, sort of like ham radio. At the same time that many of these companies are scrambling to get in on the internet bonanza and in on our local cable television service, they would like to prevent us from accessing a simple service that is not _as_ profitable for them. After all, doesn't most communication on the internet run on phone lines OWNED by these companies? For all these reasons, I would ask you to say no to this consortium's request. Thank you.

Lamar Stonecypher lstone@gnatnet.net

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From: rodney derrick <rderrick@cris.com>
To: A16.A16(rm8775)
Date: 4/2/96 7:14pm
Subject: phones on the internet

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the idea that the fcc stop phone usage on the internet is absolutely a bad, bad idea. it opposes the development of new technology making life better and less costly to the people. who does the fcc represent-- vested interest big corporations or people and their use of technology?

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